



TONTO NATIONAL FOREST

NEWS RELEASE

Tonto National Forest, 2324 East McDowell Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85006 www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto

For Immediate Release
September 3, 2011 – 1200 hrs.

Contact: Fire Information Officer
602-525-1042

Two fires being managed on the Globe Ranger District
Tonto National Forest
Update – 1200 hrs.

Globe, Ariz. (September 3, 2011 – 1200 hrs.) – Globe Ranger District fire specialists are currently managing two lightning-caused wildfires: the Frio (1,300 acres), in the Pinal Mountain range, and the 650 Fire, which began Aug. 28 seven miles north of Superior in the Superstition mountains on Montana Mountain.

The 650 fire has moved into the Superstition wilderness area and is around 3,000 acres in size, with backing to the south. The higher humidity level has slowed the spread of the fire to the northeast. Today, a burnout is being conducted on the 650 road. Smoke and flames from the 650 fire may be visible to East Valley residents.

Personnel and equipment are assigned to these fires and fire management officials continue to be pleased with the fire behavior, direction and favorable weather conditions.

The Frio fire burn-out on Madera Peak is being conducted around the electronics site, followed by clean-up activities. There is some fire backing today from Madera Peak.

Vistors and residents may see light-to-moderate smoke throughout the day, with the possibility of smoke drifting towards and settling in Globe and Miami.

“Current weather conditions are very favorable in helping the smoke ventilate more quickly than had these fires occurred later in the wildfire season,” observed Rick Reitz, Globe district ranger. “Still, the firefighters and community members are experiencing smoke effects. We ask for the patience and support of everyone as we manage these fires now which will help prevent catastrophic wildfires in the future when weather conditions are much less favorable.”

Due to current weather conditions, including monsoon humidity, these lightning-caused fires can be allowed to play their natural role in the ecosystem.

“In managing wildfires, firefighter, aviation and public safety are always the top priority,” stated Clay Templin, Fire Staff Officer for the forest. “We have a variety of management strategies to meet multiple objectives on the landscape. Depending on weather, fuel conditions, and terrain, tactics are implemented that meet suppression needs and reduce hazardous fuels. This reduction in fuels allows for regeneration of vegetation and improves both watersheds and wildlife habitat. All wildfires have suppression actions taken regardless of location.”

Phone service is currently disrupted at the Globe Ranger District administrative offices. When that service resumes, you can contact them for updates at 928-402-6200. Excellent incidents updates are being maintained at the **National Incident Information System website:** www.inciweb.org

Residents can also stay updated on fire activity at www.fs.usda.gov/Tonto. To report a wildland fire, the fire emergency number is 866-746-6516, or dial 9-1-1.

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For general information on fire activity and restrictions in Arizona call toll free 877-864-6985, or visit the. **Southwest Coordination Center website:** <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/> or <http://www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php>

Useful Websites:

National Incident Information System www.inciweb.org
Southwest Coordination Center: <http://gacc.nifc.gov/swcc/>
National Interagency Fire Center: www.nifc.gov
National Fire Plan: www.forestsandangelands.gov
FireWise: www.firewise.org

ARIZONA Websites:

www.azfireinfo.com (fire prevention and restrictions)
www.publiclands.org/firenews/AZ.php (fire restrictions and other public lands information)
www.azsf.az.gov. (wildfire information and Firewise)
www.azein.gov (Arizona Emergency Information Network for ALL hazard emergency and disaster information)

Fire Restriction Information: Toll free 1 (877) 864-6985

To report a wildfire, call 1-866-746-6516 or dial 911.